

# VALUES ACTION TEAM

2001 Annual Report  
107th Congress, First Session

Congressman Joe Pitts, Chairman





Values Action Team  
Office of Congressman Joseph R. Pitts

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# **107<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> Session Report**

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## Introduction

The Values Action Team was an offshoot of the Values Summit held in 1998. As a result of this summit, Majority Whip Tom DeLay identified the lack of coordination among the outside pro-life/pro-family coalitions and like-minded Members of Congress. In turn, the Whip tapped then-freshman Representative Joseph R. Pitts (R-PA) to spearhead this new inside/outside coalition, which would come to be known as the Values Action Team (VAT).

The goal of this group was to unite conservative Members with pro-family coalitions by establishing legislative goals, identifying key tasks for Members and coalitions to perform, and executing action items that would lead to conservative victories. VAT has successfully followed this model, achieving pro-life/pro-family victories since the 2<sup>nd</sup> session of the 105<sup>th</sup> Congress.

This year-end report is intended to be a resource for Values Action Team Members and Coalitions. The following aspects of VAT will be documented:

- 1) **Membership and structure**
- 2) **Legislative action**

## Membership and Structure

### Members of Congress

#### 107<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> Session

Joe Pitts, Chairman	Sue Myrick
Robert Aderholt	Charlie Norwood
Todd Akin	Mike Pence
Dick Armey	Chip Pickering
Bob Barr	Jim Ryun
Kevin Brady	Bob Schaffer
Eric Cantor	John Shadegg
Chris Cox	Chris Smith
Jo Ann Davis	Lamar Smith
Tom DeLay	Mark Souder
Jim DeMint	Tom Tancredo
J. Randy Forbes	Todd Tiahrt
Gil Gutknecht	David Vitter
Melissa Hart	Dave Weldon
Robin Hayes	
Pete Hoekstra	
John Hostettler	
Duncan Hunter	
Ernest Istook	
Steve Largent	
Ron Lewis	
Gary Miller	

**Requirements for VAT Members:**

- Strongly pro-life.
- Must assign one legislative staff member to attend weekly strategy luncheons.
- Be willing to follow-through with action items such as lobbying Members, signing letters, sending dear colleagues, etc.
- Be willing to address the Thursday VAT coalition meeting at least one time each year.

A VAT report is given by Chairman Pitts each week Congress is in session at the Republican Study Committee (RSC) meeting. VAT Members' staffs meet weekly for a strategy lunch hosted by the Family Research Council. The goal of these meetings is to strategize, educate, and assign action items for VAT Members and staff to complete.

**Outside Groups**

The VAT outside coalition group has had a large attendance over the past four years. Weekly meetings, held on Thursdays when Congress is in session, now draw over 30 pro-family outside groups. These meetings include briefings from Leaders and prime sponsors of House and Senate bills, strategizing, assigning action items, and distribution of resource materials. The following groups participate in VAT:

Focus on the Family  
Family Research Council  
Christian Coalition  
National Right to Life Committee  
Home School Legal Defense  
Eagle Forum  
Concerned Women for America  
Empower America  
Free Congress  
American Family Association  
Susan B. Anthony List  
Prison Fellowship  
Justice Fellowship  
American Association of  
Christian Schools  
Association of Christian Schools  
International  
Coalitions for America  
Traditional Values Coalition  
Council for National Policy  
National Conference of Catholic  
Bishops  
The Heritage Foundation  
Christian Action Network  
Religious Freedom Coalition

Toward Tradition  
Republican Jewish Coalition  
Jewish Policy Center  
Nance and Associates  
Southern Baptist Convention  
Tradition, Family, Property, Inc.  
The SALT  
The Beverly LaHaye Institute  
National Law Center for Children  
and Families  
The Catholic Conference  
Morality in Media, Inc.  
National Center for Home  
Education  
National Law Center for Children  
and Families  
Vision America  
American Renewal  
Campaign for Working Families  
Council for America  
Family Action Council  
International  
Institute for Youth Development  
People Advancing Christian  
Education



### FY 2002 Appropriations

- **Background**

VAT Members and Coalitions had been working, in some cases for an entire year, on numerous amendments, including:

- Amendment to LHHS to prohibit the use of Title X funds for private organizations that provide chemical or surgical abortions. Currently, roughly 20% of the organizations that receive Title X funds perform chemical or surgical abortions for a total of approximately \$50 million. For those organizations, Title X funds represent a large portion of their budget. (The Vitter amendment was not offered due to lack of votes in Committee).
- No federal funds for schools that distribute the morning-after-pill to K-12 students
- No federal funding for United Nations Fund for Population Assistance (UNFPA)
- Increase abstinence funding to parity with sex education funding

The events of September 11<sup>th</sup> significantly changed the appropriations process for the year. VAT Members quickly discovered that the bipartisan “truce” produced by September 11<sup>th</sup> meant that many pro-family/pro-life provisions would be in jeopardy.

Essentially, VAT acted defensively, successfully protecting American families by ensuring each of the following:

- No federal funding for the destruction of living human embryos (Dickey-Wicker-report language states the Dickey-Wicker amendment does not conflict with President's policy).
- No federal funding for abortions for federal prisoners
- No federal or local DC funds for abortion in the District of Columbia
- No population control funding for programs that are certified to be involuntary (Tiahrt)
- No federal funds for abortions (Hyde)
- Retained Medicare+Choice conscience protection for health care entities to ensure that they will not be discriminated against in state and local programs if they refuse to provide abortions
- No funding of abortions through the Federal Employee Health Benefit Program (FEHB)
- Retained prohibition on military personnel and their dependents overseas using their own funds to obtain abortion services in military hospitals (Sanchez)

- **Victories**

- **Mexico City Policy**

On January 22, 2001 the anniversary of the March for Life, President Bush issued an Executive Order that reinstated the Mexico City Policy that had been in place during the Reagan and Bush Sr. Administrations. This policy prohibits any U.S. population control funding for foreign non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that perform abortions (except in life of the mother, rape or incest cases), or that engage in any activity or effort to change other countries' laws.

Rep. Barbara Lee offered an amendment to the State Department FY2000-2003 Authorization bill (H.R. 1646) in Committee that would have reversed the Mexico City Policy. VAT Members supported a Floor amendment offered by Rep. Henry Hyde. The Hyde amendment, which stripped the Lee amendment on the House Floor, passed on May 16, 2001 by a vote of 218-210.

- **Embryo Adoption**

Rep. Mark Souder held a hearing in the House Government Reform Committee on alternatives to embryonic stem cell research. The hearing highlighted "snowflake" (embryo) adoptions and the growing number of embryos that are being adopted from fertility clinics. Rep. Souder supported the inclusion of \$1 million in the Labor-HHS appropriations bill to promote embryo adoption. This earmark was included in the Senate version of LHHS and the final version that the President signed into law on January 10, 2002.

- **Protection for the Boy Scouts**

Rep. John Hostettler offered an amendment to the DC appropriations bill that prevents any funds from being used to enforce a DC Human Rights Commission ruling fining the Boy Scouts unless they reinstate a homosexual troop leader. This amendment passed 262-152 on September 25, 2001, and was signed into law by President Bush on December 21, 2001.

Rep. Van Hilleary offered an amendment to H.R. 1, the Elementary and Secondary Education Authorization Act that denies federal funds to any public school or LEA that discriminates against or denies equal access to any group affiliated with the Boy Scouts of America. The Hilleary amendment passed the House by voice vote on May 23, 2001 and was included in the final version of H.R. 1.

- **Abstinence Education (Partial Victory)**

The LHHS appropriations bill increased funding for abstinence-only education by \$22 million for a total of \$102 million for FY2002. Abstinence SPRANS grant funding was increased by \$10 million in FY2002 for a total of \$40 million. Title V welfare reform block grants are \$50 million, and the abstinence portion of Title XX is up to \$12 million.

However, Rep. Ernest Istook offered a floor amendment to increase SPRANS funding to a total of \$73 million, which would have brought total abstinence funding for FY2002 to \$135 million (equal to 1997 funding for sex education

programs). The Istook amendment failed by a vote of 106-311 on October 11, 2001.

- **Other Pro-Family/Pro-Life restrictions retained from previous years**, including needle exchange ban, marijuana ban and ban on contraceptive mandate in DC without conscience protection.

- **Losses**

- **National Endowment for the Arts**

The FY2002 Interior appropriations bill provides \$115.2 million for the NEA. The House Appropriations Committee originally included \$105.2 million for the NEA. However Rep. Louise Slaughter offered an amendment to increase NEA funding by \$10 million. The Slaughter amendment passed by a vote of 221 to 193 on June 21, 2001. Rep. Cliff Stearns offered an amendment to shift \$10 million from the NEA to energy conservation. The Stearns amendment failed by a vote of 145-264.

- **Title X**

Went up \$11 million in the LHHS bill. Title X funding is now \$265 million. **Since 1998, Title X funding has been increased by 30%.** Beyond the \$265 million in Title X funding, under Medicaid and other federal programs, an additional \$400-\$500 million is spent on family planning each year.

Per an agreement between Reps. Regula and Obey, in the subcommittee Title X family planning funding was increased \$10.3 million over last year for a total of \$264.2 million. Planned Parenthood is a major recipient of these funds.

- **Increase in International Population Assistance Funding**

International population assistance funding was increased to \$446 million, a \$21.5 million increase over the President's request and the House-passed level. **International population assistance funding has increased by \$40 million since 1998.**

- **Morning-After Pill Prohibition Amendment (Hart)**

This amendment prohibits the distribution of the morning-after pill on school grounds. (On June 29, 2000, the House voted on this issue in the form of a motion to instruct the Labor HHS conferees to accept Senator Helms' amendment. It passed by a vote of 250-170. The Senate originally passed this amendment 54-41. Unfortunately, this provision was not included in the LHHS bill that was signed by President Clinton.)

Rep. Melissa Hart originally wanted to offer an amendment to H.R. 1 that would have prohibited the distribution of the morning-after-pill to K-12 students. The Speaker asked Rep. Hart not to offer the amendment to H.R. 1 and promised that she would be able to offer it as an amendment to the LHHS bill. Rep. Hart withdrew her amendment, and VAT Members began working hard to encourage grassroots support for the Hart amendment and educate Members.



The day before Rep. Hart was to offer her amendment to LHHS, the Speaker persuaded Rep. Hart not to offer the amendment, citing an agreement between LHHS Subcommittee Chairman Jim Kolbe and Ranking Member David Obey. The Kolbe-Obey agreement stipulated that no "controversial" amendments would be attached to the bill by either side.

VAT Members were very frustrated with the outcome of the Hart amendment and did not believe the "truce" on controversial issues was a two-sided truce. It was noted that Rep. Kolbe was not similarly pressured to pull his domestic partnership amendment.

- **DC's Domestic Partnership Law goes into effect, decision hailed as victory by homosexual lobby.**

In 1992, Congress approved the D.C. Health Care Benefits Expansion Act, giving domestic partners of district employees access to health benefits. Since 1992, conservatives in Congress have worked hard to make sure that no federal or local funds can be used to enforce this anti-family policy.

Rep. Jim Kolbe offered an amendment to the DC appropriations bill in Committee that for the first time ever successfully allows DC to use funds to implement their domestic partnership law. Rep. David Weldon offered an amendment to strip the Kolbe amendment on the Floor. However, the Weldon amendment failed by a vote of 194-226 on September 25, 2001. Forty-one Republicans voted against the Weldon amendment. The bill, H.R. 2944, was signed into law by President Bush on December 21, 2001.

- **In progress**

- **Funding for the United Nations Fund for Population Assistance (UNFPA)**

UNFPA has long been an area of concern for pro-lifers because of UNFPA's history of involvement with China's forced abortion policy and their insistence upon distributing abortion kits as part of "humanitarian" relief efforts. In October 2001, the House International Relations Committee held a hearing on UNFPA's involvement in China's forced abortion policy. At the hearing, eyewitnesses testified that the UNFPA office in one county was actually located within the Chinese Office of Family Planning -- the agency responsible for coercive abortion practices. **VAT Members fought for zero funding for UNFPA**

The House passed a foreign operations appropriations bill that allowed UNFPA to receive **a maximum of \$21.5 million**. The Senate passed bill allowed UNFPA to receive **a minimum of \$40 million**. The Conference Report allowed for UNFPA funding "up to" \$34 million. The Conference Report also included the Kemp-Kasten provision, which allows the President not to spend one dollar on UNFPA, if he chooses. **In January 2001, President Bush temporarily suspended UNFPA funding while a review is underway. VAT Members are continuing to encourage the President to zero-out UNFPA funding.**

- **Bills that Passed the House**

- **H.R. 503, The Unborn Victims of Violence Act**

This bill would amend federal law so that individuals who have committed crimes of violence prohibited under federal law could also be prosecuted if their conduct resulted in death or bodily injury to an unborn child.

This bill **passed the House** on April 26, 2001 by a vote of 252-172. VAT Members defeated an amendment in the nature of a substitute that was offered by Rep. Zoe Lofgren. Under the Lofgren Substitute, a criminal could receive a stiffer sentence for interfering with "the normal course of the pregnancy" while committing a federal crime, but under the premise that there has only been one victim, the mother. Bolstered by support from the Bush Administration, VAT members worked to successfully defeat the Lofgren substitute by a vote of 196-229 on April 26, 2001.

Senator DeWine introduced a companion bill, S.480, March 7, 2001, but the bill was not considered in Committee or on the Senate floor.

*Sponsor: Rep. Lindsey Graham (R-SC)*

- **H.R. 2505, The Human Cloning Prohibition Act**

On July 31, 2001, the House passed H.R. 2505 by a vote of 265-162. H.R. 2505 provides a total ban on all human cloning. Those convicted under this bill would face penalties such as ten years in federal prison and a \$1 million fine or twice the amount that the guilty parties gained through their illegal activities.

VAT Members worked to defeat a substitute bill sponsored by Reps. Jim Greenwood and Peter Deutsch that would have allowed for human clones to be created for research purposes provided that they were destroyed and never implanted into a womb. The Greenwood substitute failed on July 31, 2001 by a vote of 175-251.

The bill was stalled in the Senate where Senate sponsor Senator Sam Brownback tried various tactics to bring the cloning bill to the Floor. During a discussion on the Senate Floor during the LHHS debate, Senators Sam Brownback and Arlen Specter entered into a colloquy that resulted in Majority Leader Tom Daschle's promise of a clean vote on the cloning bill in February or March of 2002.

*Sponsor: Rep. Dave Weldon (R-FL)*

- **H.Res.254, A resolution supporting the goals of Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day**

This resolution acknowledges the loss of human life each year through miscarriage, stillbirth and newborns who die shortly after birth.

*Sponsor: Majority Leader Dick Armey*

- **Bills that Passed the House and Senate**

- **H.R. 4292, The Born-Alive Infants Protection Act**

This bill would firmly establish that, for purposes of federal law, an infant will be considered to have been born alive if she is completely expelled or extracted from her mother and breathes, has a beating heart, a pulsation of the umbilical cord, or definite movement of the voluntary muscles, regardless of whether the umbilical cord has been cut, and regardless of whether the baby was born as a result of natural or induced labor, cesarean section, or induced abortion.

This bill passed out of the House Judiciary Committee, and was attached to the House and Senate versions of the Patients' Bill of Rights (S. 872/H.R. 2563). The conference committee, which is stalled over various health care provisions, will now make the final decision.

*Sponsors: Reps. Steve Chabot (R-OH) and Sue Myrick (R-NC)*

- **Other Pro-life Bills**

- **H.R. 476, The Child Custody Protection Act**

This bill makes it a federal crime to transport a minor (under 18) across a state line to obtain an abortion if a state law requiring parental involvement is not met.

The House Judiciary Subcommittee held a hearing on September 6, 2001.

*Sponsor: Rep. Ilona Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL)*

- **H.R. 2096, The Responsible Stem Cell Research Act**

This bill would authorize \$30 million for ethical stem cell research, including research on adult stem cells and stem cells from umbilical cord and placenta blood, and would set up a stem cell bank at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). This bank would collect umbilical cord blood and placenta blood, which would generate a source of stem cells that could be matched with people who need stem cells for treatment.

H.R. 2805 was not considered during the 1<sup>st</sup> Session.

*Sponsor: Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ)*

- **H.R. 2805, The Post-Abortion Depression Research and Care Act**

This bill provides \$15 million to the National Institutes of Health to research the emotional impact of abortion on women and creates a \$1.5 million grant program to fund the development of treatment programs for women who suffer from post-abortion depression.

H.R. 2805 was not considered in the House this session. However, Senator Bob Smith offered an amendment to H.R. 3061 (LHHS bill), expressing the Sense of the Senate that post-abortion depression exists and should be studied at NIH. The Smith amendment passed the Senate by voice vote on November 1, 2001. Unfortunately,



the Smith amendment was stripped out in conference and was not included in the final version of LHHS, which the President signed on January 10, 2002.

*Sponsor: Rep. Joe Pitts (R-PA)*

- **H.R. 482, The RU-486 Patient Health and Safety Protection Act**

This bill would enact many of the health and safety guidelines the FDA originally proposed for RU-486, but dropped after pro-abortion activists launched an aggressive lobbying campaign to kill the provisions. Provisions include: 1) a requirement that only physicians trained in surgical abortions would be allowed to prescribe the drug; 2) prescribing physicians must be credentialed in ultrasound administration; 3) prescribing doctors must have admitting privileges at a hospital within one hour of their offices; 4) a follow-up study of all women who have medical abortions. European countries like Britain and France have established even more stringent provisions.

The House did not consider H.R. 482 this session. Senator Tim Hutchinson introduced the Senate companion bill, S. 251.

*Sponsor: Rep. David Vitter (R-LA)*

- **H.R. 3006, The Adoption Information Act**

This bill requires that all family planning clinics that accept Title X funds must provide a detailed pamphlet of adoption information to all people inquiring about family planning services. The pamphlet must include a comprehensive list of the adoption centers available in the state where the services are provided, including address and telephone number.

*Sponsor: Rep. JoAnn Davis (R-VA)*

- **H.Res.302, A resolution supporting crisis pregnancy centers**

This resolution commends crisis pregnancy centers for their unique, positive contribution to the individual lives of women, men and babies.

*Sponsor: Rep. Bob Schaffer (R-CO)*

- **Bills that have been signed into law**

- **H.R. 622, The Hope for the Children Act (P.L. 107-16)**

This bill increases the adoption tax credit to \$10,000 for all adoptions and increases the employer adoption assistance exclusion to \$10,000. Many families who would like to open their home to a child are prevented or delayed in doing so by the high cost of adoption.

H.R. 622 was incorporated into the historic tax relief bill signed by President Bush on June 7, 2001. It is Title II, Section 202 of H.R. 1836, the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act.

*Sponsor: Rep. Jim DeMint (R-SC)*

- **H.R. 2018, The Safe Havens Support Act of 2001 (P.L. 107-133)**

This bill creates an allowable use of funds for state and local governments to provide resources to pregnant moms at risk of abandoning their newborns. Thirty-five states currently have safe haven laws.

Rep. Phil English offered Hart's bill as an amendment to the reauthorization of Protecting Safe & Stable Families Act (H.R. 2873). H.R. 2873 was signed into law by President Bush on January 17, 2002.

*Sponsor: Rep. Melissa Hart (R-PA)*

- **Letters**

- **Letter to Secretary Thompson regarding experimentation on unborn or newborn children**

On January 17, 2001, the Clinton Administration published a last-minute change regarding Human Research Subjects regulations at 45 CFR 46. The Clinton regulations, which were set to go into effect on March 19, 2001, defined a newborn baby *outside* the womb as a "fetus" and stripped all paternal involvement from research on pregnant women.

On March 14, 2001, VAT Members wrote the Secretary expressing concern with this regulation. After bringing it to their attention, the HHS Secretary immediately delayed the regulation and two months later announced a revised regulation. (In the interim, VAT Chairman Pitts joined the Pro-life Caucus Co-Chairs and the Republican Study Committee Chairman in submitting recommended regulation changes "comments" to HHS.) The Bush/Thompson revised regulation now recognizes a newborn as a "neonate" not a "fetus" and returns some consultation to fathers when research is done in-utero on their unborn child. The revisions did *not* address the inaccurate definition of pregnancy as beginning at implantation or recognize human embryos as human subjects, but stopping the Clinton regulation and modifying it at all was an early VAT accomplishment in 2001.

- **Letter to Attorney General John Ashcroft**

On October 5, 2001, VAT Members sent a letter to Attorney General Ashcroft asking that unborn children who died in the events of September 11<sup>th</sup> attack be included as eligible "claimants" for the September 11<sup>th</sup> Victim Compensation Fund. We learned from news reports that some of the victims of September 11<sup>th</sup> were pregnant at the time of their death, and VAT Members wanted to ensure that all the lives that were lost would be remembered.

At this time, we do not know whether the Special Master, Ken Feinberg, in charge of the Fund will agree to include unborn children as claimants.

- **GAO Audit of Planned Parenthood**

Reps. Joe Pitts and Chris Smith sent a letter to the GAO on behalf of VAT and the Pro-Life Caucus requesting an audit of Planned Parenthood and its affiliates. The study revealed that Planned Parenthood and its affiliates have received \$183 million dollars in fiscal year 1999 alone. In fiscal year 2000, the organization received an increase of \$12 million dollars. By contrast, since 1996, abstinence-only organizations have received \$50 million dollars per year.

VAT will continue to monitor federal funding of Planned Parenthood in general and will support Rep. Vitter's amendment to LHHS, which would dramatically curtail the abortion industry's access to federal dollars.

## **Tax Relief**

### **Bills that have been signed into law**

- **Marriage Tax Penalty**

VAT Members worked to make sure that marriage tax relief was part of President Bush's tax relief package. VAT Members worked with the Republican Study Committee to ensure that all married couples were treated equally. VAT Members were particularly concerned about the need to protect single-income couples and stay-at-home moms from discrimination in the tax code.

H.R. 6, The Marriage Penalty and Family Tax Relief Act were signed into law on June 7, 2001 as part of the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 (P.L. 107-16). H.R. 6 doubles the standard deduction for married couples filing jointly to twice that of the standard deduction for single filers beginning in January 1, 2002. This bill phases out the marriage tax penalty in the 15% tax bracket in 2004 and completes the phase out in 2009, at which time the 15% bracket for married couples filing jointly would be twice the size of the bracket for single filers. Thus, married couples will not pay a marriage penalty on approximately their first \$62,000 to \$70,000 of income.

The bill creates, retroactive to January 1, 2001, a new 12% bracket that would eliminate the marriage penalty imposed by the tax brackets on the first \$12,000 of a married couples income.

- **Child Tax Credit**

H.R. 6 also increases the child tax credit from \$500 to \$600 retroactive to January 1, 2001, to \$700 in 2003, to \$800 in 2004, to \$900 in 2005, and to \$1,000 in 2006.

- **Hope for the Children Act**

See pro-life section.

## **Education**

### **Bills that passed the House**

- **H.Res.28, A resolution honoring catholic schools.**

This resolution recognizes and honors the contributions of Catholic schools. For the 1999-2000 academic year, Catholic schools enrolled over 2.6 million children in over 8,000 Catholic schools across the country. Catholic schools have been particularly effective at providing school choice for students in America's inner cities.

H.Res.28 passed the House under the suspension of the rules on February 6, 2001 by a vote of 412-0.



*Sponsor: Rep. Bob Schaffer (R-CO)*

- **H.Con.Res.95, A resolution promoting charter schools.**

This resolution acknowledges and commends the charter school movement for its contribution to improving our nation's public school system. It expresses the sense of Congress that: (1) a National Charter Schools Week should be established; and (2) the President should issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to conduct appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities to demonstrate support for charter schools in communities throughout the nation.

H.Con.Res.95 passed the House under the suspension of the rules on May 2, 2001 by a vote of 404-6.

*Sponsor: Rep. Tom Tancredo (R-CO)*

- **H.Con.Res.204, A resolution promoting character education**

This resolution encourages the establishment of a National Character Counts Week. In a time when parents must worry about their children receiving conflicting messages from popular culture, as well as the threat of school violence, the resolution would help focus the attention of schools, parents, and children, on the need to foster basic values like honesty, discipline, and concern for community.

H.Con.Res. 204 passed the House by voice vote on October 12, 2001.

*Sponsor: Rep. Lamar Smith (R-TX)*

### **Bills that were signed into law**

- **H.R. 1, The Leave No Child Behind Act of 2001 (P.L. 107-110)**

Throughout the 2000 Presidential campaign, then-candidate Bush expressed his strong desire for education reform, particularly school choice, accountability and local flexibility. President Bush began his tenure with his new education initiative – a plan that was hailed as a harbinger of true reform and included provisions such as Straight As and private school choice. Unfortunately, the final version of the bill lacked many of these original reforms. President Bush signed H.R. 1 into law on January 8, 2002.

*Sponsor: Rep. John Boehner (R-OH)*

- **Spending (Loss)**

- \$26.3 billion in spending plus 10 “such sums” for an additional 10 programs. This represents a \$16.3 billion increase over the last authorization level (FY1995), which was \$10 billion.

- **Number of programs (Loss)**

- 45 programs plus other “hidden” programs in the form of set-asides (including 20 programs under the Fund for the Improvement of Education).

- **Testing (Loss)**
  - NAEP test mandated for all states. Some protections placed on NAEP, including no federal rewards for state performance on NAEP.
  - **Victory:** Rep. Todd Akin's amendment requiring that state assessments and NAEP must be objective and not evaluate personal or family beliefs was included in H.R. 1.
  - Annual state assessments in math and reading in grades 3-8, and once in grades 10-12 by the 2005-2006 school year.
  - Science assessments must be given beginning in the 2007-2008
    - **Victory: Senator Santorum's Sense of the Senate requiring that schools teach the evolution controversy was included in report language for H.R. 1.**
- **School Choice (Loss)**
  - **No private school choice.**  
Majority Leader Dick Armey introduced a private school choice amendment with Majority Whip Tom DeLay and Chairman John Boehner. The Armey amendment was not considered by the full House.
  - Public school choice for students in schools that have failed for two consecutive years within student's school district.
- **Straight As (Loss)**
  - Rep. Jim DeMint's Straight As amendment was not included in H.R. 1. The DeMint Straight A's Amendment would have allowed 7 states and 25 local school districts the option of entering into a Performance Agreement with the Secretary of Education.
  - Under approved results-oriented contracts, states or local school districts would be able to combine funds from a few or all of the eligible federal formula grant programs they administer at the state level and would be freed from most of the requirements of those individual programs. In exchange for this flexibility, participating states or locals would have to meet their performance objectives for improving student academic achievement.
  - Rep. DeMint originally wanted to offer his Straight As provision as a Floor amendment to H.R. 1. However, he decided to withdraw his amendment because of a promise from the White House that Straight As would be able to be included when H.R. 1 went to Conference.
  - In the Senate, Senator Tedd Kennedy's developed his own "Straight As" provision. Kennedy "Straight As" would have allowed 50 states to shift up to 50% of most non-Title I state activity funds(only about 1-5% of state funds) to other programs of a state's choosing. **Neither DeMint not Kennedy Straight As were included in conference. Instead 7 states in 10 school districts within those states can waive federal education requirements associated with a variety of mostly non-Title I ESEA programs.**
- **Parental Rights (Victory)**
  - Rep. Lindsey Graham and Rep. Todd Tiahrt introduced an amendment designed to give parents greater control over the surveys, tests and medical exams that may be given to their children at school. Of particular concern to VAT Members were reports that

many surveys that are ostensibly about academic topics include questions about sexuality, drug use, family income and habits. VAT Members favored the inclusion of an informed consent option for parents that enabled parents to “opt-in” to each non-academic test or survey given to students.

- The final version of H.R. 1 included a requirement that schools notify parents of all surveys, tests and medical exams at the beginning of the school year. The burden is on the parents to opt their children out of such surveys by notifying the school. The original form of Graham/Tiaht would have required written consent of the parents for student participation in surveys and tests.

▪ **Hate Crimes (Draw)**

- **No new hate crimes programs are added.** However, funds are made available for programs preventing “violence associated with prejudice and intolerance” under Governor’s Activities, SEA Activities, LEA Activities and National Activities in the Safe and Drug Free Schools program, including allowing the development of hate crimes curriculum. The Secretary may also fund the federal Hate Crimes Prevention Program (current law). The definition of “hate crime” under current law includes crimes motivated by sexual orientation.
- **Loss:** House Republicans unsuccessfully offered an amendment in Conference that would have protected students’ from activities undermining their religious beliefs.
- VAT Members look forward to working with the Administration to ensure that language promoting “anti-Christian bigotry” are not included in Department of Education curriculum and that regulations clearly define student’s rights to their religious and moral beliefs.

▪ **Character Education Funding doubles to \$50 million. (Victory)**

▪ **Goals 2000 (Victory)**

VAT successfully lobbied for the removal of \$2 million in federal funds appropriated for the Goals 2000 Panel in the Senate version of LHHS. The LHHS bill stipulates that the Goals 2000 Panel must cease its operations.

**Other VAT victories in H.R. 1:** protection for school prayer and the Boy Scouts, military recruiters have access to public high schools, stiffer penalties for students with disabilities who commit violent acts or possess or sell illegal drugs, requiring Internet filtration technology in schools, and home school students exempted from all federal testing and education requirements.

• **Coverdell Education Savings Accounts (P.L. 107-16)**

The Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001(P.L. 107-16), which President Bush signed into law on June 7, 2001, includes expanded Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) that allow parents to save up to \$2,000 annually for their children’s K-12 education in special tax-free savings accounts.

The accounts were authorized by the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 (P.L. 105-34) along with other measures to help parents and students pay college costs; they were then called education individual retirement accounts (education IRAs). Contributions

to Coverdell education savings accounts can be made until beneficiaries are age 18; the annual limit is \$500 per beneficiary, though this amount is reduced and then eliminated for contributors with modified adjusted gross incomes between \$95,000 and \$110,000 (\$150,000 and \$160,000 for joint returns).

Contributions are not deductible, but accounts are exempt from taxation and distributions are excluded from beneficiaries' gross income if used for qualified higher education expenses: tuition, fees, books, supplies, equipment required for enrollment or attendance, and certain room and board expenses. Qualifying expenses must be incurred at institutions eligible to participate in federal student aid programs under Title IV of the Higher Education Act. This includes nearly all public and private colleges and universities, as well as many vocational and proprietary schools (for-profit trade schools).

ESA legislation for K-12 education had been passed in the 106<sup>th</sup> Congress but vetoed by President Clinton. VAT Members have been working hard for years in order to ensure that this provision was signed into law.

- **H.R. 1103, The Teacher Liability and Protection Act of 2001**

This bill is designed to protect educators from frivolous lawsuits when teachers act responsibly to maintain discipline and order in the classroom. The bill is similar to the teacher liability bill Rep. Brady introduced in the 106<sup>th</sup> Congress that passed the House twice, including once by a vote of 300-126. Unfortunately, the legislation was not signed into law during the Clinton Administration.

H.R. 830 was included as an amendment (H.AMDT 62) to H.R. 1 and signed into law on January 8, 2002.

*Sponsor: Rep. Kevin Brady*

- **Hearings**

- **Education Department Oversight and Reform (Hoekstra)**

Oversight hearings by Select Education Subcommittee Chairman Pete Hoekstra (R-MI) this spring revealed that the U.S. Department of Education experienced at least \$450 million in waste, fraud and abuse during the last three years of the Clinton Administration while failing three consecutive department-wide audits. Hoekstra and other House Republicans have pushed forcefully for accountability at the Department, and new Education Secretary Rod Paige has acted swiftly and decisively to develop guidelines to combat the waste, fraud, and abuse that occurred under the previous administration. In October, Paige announced a comprehensive action plan for putting the U.S. Department of Education's management and financial house in order based on more than 600 separate recommendations.

- **Other Education Bills**

- **H.R. 830, The Military Home School Children Equal Access Act of 2001**

This bill amends the Defense Dependents' Education Act of 1978 to allow home school students who are eligible for enrollment in a school of the overseas defense dependents' education system to use or receive auxiliary services without enrolling or registering for a minimum number of courses.

H.R. 830 was referred to the House Education and Workforce Committee but not considered.

*Sponsor: Rep. John Hostettler (R-IN)*

- **H.R. 257, The Education Empowerment Tax Credit Act**

This bill provides a \$1000 education tax credit for every child, including students in private or religious schools and homeschoolers.

*Sponsor: Rep. Eric Cantor (R-VA)*

- **H.R. 353, Education Audit Bill**

This bill directs the Comptroller General to: (1) conduct a fraud audit of selected accounts at the Department of Education that the Comptroller General determines to be particularly susceptible to waste, fraud, and abuse; and (2) report audit results to specified congressional committees.

A similar bill (H.R. 4079) passed the House 380-19 under suspension of the rules on June 13, 2000. A companion bill, S. 2829, was introduced by Senator Hutchinson. According to the bill's sponsor, the Education Department's failure to receive a clean audit in each of the past two fiscal years, coupled with a large number of cases of waste, fraud, and abuse at the department, demand swift action. (See Education Hearing section for more information).

*Sponsor: Rep. Pete Hoekstra (R-MI)*

- **H.R. 835, IDEA Full Funding Bill**

This bill urges the Congress and the President to fully fund the federal government's obligation under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

On May 4, 1999, the House passed H.Con.Res. 84, a resolution calling for full IDEA funding, by a vote of 421-3. H.R. 835 was referred to the House Education and Workforce Committee but not considered in the 1<sup>st</sup> Session.

*Sponsor: Rep. Gary Miller (R-CA)*

## **Obscenity/Child Pornography**

- **Letter to FTC Commissioners**

On December 5, 2001, VAT Members sent a letter to the FTC Commissioners asking them to conduct a study of the ways in which the recording industry has failed to stop marketing violent/sexually explicit media to children. An FTC report released on December 5<sup>th</sup> showed that while the motion picture and video game industry have made progress in protecting children from violent content, the recording industry has not.

As a result of the VAT letter, the FTC is conducting a study of the recording industry's marketing practices that will be released in June of 2002.

- **Letter to the Heads of the Major Networks**

Some VAT Members sent a letter to the heads of the major television networks (NBC, ABS, CBS and Fox) asking them to bring back the "Family Hour." This effort was spearheaded by the Parent's Television Council as a way of encouraging networks to voluntarily set aside the time from 8:00pm-9:00pm for family-friendly programming.

Other VAT Members were involved in an effort to encourage the FCC to make midnight the time at which "adult" programming can begin. Currently, "adult" programming can be aired after 10:00pm.

- **Rep. Largent releases report on children's access to pornography through file sharing.**

On July 27, 2001, Rep. Steve Largent released a report aimed at educating parents on some of the weaknesses of Internet filtration systems in the fight against pornography.

File-sharing programs can transfer much more than the music files that Napster was famous for. They can help users share any type of file, including pornographic movies.

- **H.R. 1523, The Stop Material Unsuitable for Teens Act**

This bill amends the federal criminal code to increase from 16 to 18 the age of persons considered to be minors for purposes of the prohibition on transferring obscene materials to minors. In 1998, Congress passed a law prohibiting individuals from distributing obscene materials to children under sixteen years of age. Persons found guilty of this Act are subject to imprisonment for up to ten years. The bill increases the age of persons considered to be minors from age sixteen to age eighteen.

In the 106<sup>th</sup> Congress this bill (H.R. 4147) **passed the House** 397-2 under suspension of the rules on October 2, 2000. H.R. 1523 was referred to the House Judiciary Committee, but was not considered in the 1<sup>st</sup> Session of the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress.

*Sponsor: Rep. Tom Tancredo*

## **Culture**

- **Homosexual Agenda**

### ***Domestic Partnership Benefits***

- **Victims Compensation Fund**

VAT Members protested efforts by homosexual advocacy groups to give spousal benefits to homosexual partners of victims of September 11<sup>th</sup>. The Special Master in charge of the Fund has not yet determined whether they will be eligible.

- **Salvation Army Courage**

VAT Members sent a letter to the Salvation Army leadership thanking them for deciding not to offer health care benefits to domestic partners of Salvation Army employees. This decision represented a reversal of an earlier decision by the Western Territory of the Salvation Army to offer these benefits.

While homosexual advocacy groups boycotted the Salvation Army, VAT supported them through op-eds and articles for their strong stand in defense of marriage.

- **Weldon Amendment banning funding for domestic partnership law in DC**

See appropriations section.

### ***Gay Marriage***

- **Letter to Scott Everetz, Director of the Office of National AIDS Policy**

VAT sent a letter Mr. Everetz asking him to clarify comments that he made (in an Associated Press story) regarding homosexual marriage. He said, "the average American isn't at a point where they can endorse gay marriage or domestic partnerships...The president isn't endorsing those concepts at this point. But does he believe gays and lesbians ought to be treated with dignity and respect? Yes."

In his response letter, Mr. Everetz stated that his comments in no way represented a change in the President's position that marriage is between a man and a woman.

- **California State Assembly considers bill endorsing gay marriage**

In early January 2002, the California State Assembly considered taking up AB 1338, a bill that states "Every party to a civil union shall have the legal status of a married person for all purposes and to the fullest extent of the law." Fortunately, due to the hard work of VAT groups, AB 1338 was temporarily postponed. However, the prime sponsor of the bill has vowed to bring the bill up in the near future.

### ***The Boy Scouts***

- See appropriations section for victory in DC approps bill and education section for victory in H.R. 1.

### ***Hate Crimes***

- See education section for H.R. 1.
- **Successfully worked to remove hate crimes language from H.R. 7, the Community Solutions Act.**

- **Safe-Sex Agenda**

- **Letter to Secretary Thompson regarding use of CDC funds**

VAT Members sent a letter to HHS Secretary Tommy Thompson expressing concern that the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) had been funding organizations that promote teen abortion and pornography.

The Secretary responded by stating that many of the questionable activities funded by the CDC that were outlined in the VAT letter did in fact violate the CDC's mission of promoting healthy and responsible behavior. Secretary Thompson called for an audit of HHS' HIV/AIDS programs in order to determine how CDC funds are being used in this area.

- **Patriotism**

- **H.Con.Res.248, A resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that public schools may display the words "God Bless America" as an expression of support for the nation.**

H.Con.Res. 248 was inspired by the case of a public school in Wisconsin that was threatened by the ACLU for displaying a "God Bless America" sign on their school property. VAT Members supported this resolution, which passed the House on October 16, 2001 by a vote of 404-0. Ten Democrats voted present.

*Sponsor: Rep. Henry Brown (R-SC)*

## **Charitable Choice**

- **H.R. 7, The Community Solutions Act**

VAT Members began the session with mixed feelings regarding President Bush's Faith-Based Initiative. Some VAT Members were concerned that further federal involvement in faith-based groups would lead to secularization, "mission creep" and would force faith-based groups to comply with ENDA-like provisions.

By the time H.R. 7 came to the House Floor, VAT Members were in strong support of the bill and felt that many of their original concerns had been allayed. During consideration of H.R. 7 on the House Floor, VAT helped to defeat a Motion to Recommit offered by Rep. Mark Foley.

The Foley Motion to Recommit would have allowed state and local governments to place their own restrictions or requirements on faith-based groups on the basis that the group receives federal funds. In practice, that would have meant that many faith-based organizations (in places like San Francisco) would have been forced to comply with local "gay rights" ordinances as a condition of receiving federal funds.

VAT Members sent two letters to President Bush encouraging him to allow federal protections to be applied to faith-based organizations that receive federal funds and allowing faith-based groups to maintain the right to hire those who share their religious beliefs.



H.R. 7 passed the House on July 19 by a vote of 233-198. The Foley Motion to Recommit failed by a vote of 195-234. However, the bill was delayed in the Senate.

## Religion

In the wake of September 11, VAT Members supported legislation that encouraged the free exercise of religion, particularly the right to pray.

- **H.Con.Res.184, A resolution providing for a National Day of Reconciliation**

House Majority Whip Tom DeLay spearheaded an effort to set aside the House and Senate Chambers for a day of prayer and fasting so that our nation's leaders could seek God's wisdom and guidance.

Majority Whip DeLay worked with Senator Sam Brownback, the sponsor of a companion resolution (S.Con.Res.83). On December 4, 2001, Members of Congress and leaders from the Judicial and Legislative Branches participated in a time of prayer and reflection in the Capitol Rotunda. Many VAT groups helped to publicize the event, which generated enthusiasm among the grassroots.

*Sponsor: Majority Whip Tom DeLay*

- **H.CON.RES.239 is a non-binding resolution that expresses the sense of Congress that schools in the United States should set aside a sufficient period of time to allow children to pray for the Nation during this time of struggle against the forces of international terrorism.**

This resolution passed the House on November 15 by a vote of 297-125. VAT Members defeated opposition to the resolution that was led by Rep. Chet Edwards and Rep. Bobby Scott over Establishment Clause issues.

*Sponsor: Rep. Walter Jones*

- **H.R. 3319, The Student Freedom of Religious Expression Act**

Under current law, if a school **loses** a case in which it defends student speech, it must pay the opposition's legal fees. If the school **wins** in defending student speech, however, it cannot recoup legal fees from the losing party.

H.R. 3319 addresses the current bias against local schools and students by returning these cases to the common legal practice of each side paying its own attorneys fees.

In the 106<sup>th</sup> Congress, Rep. DeMint offered an amendment to the Juvenile Justice Bill (H.R. 1501) that included the same language. This amendment passed on June 17, 1999 by a vote of 238-189.

H.R. 3319 has been referred to the House Judiciary Committee.

*Sponsor: Rep. Jim DeMint (R-MI)*

- **H.R. 1273, The Public Expression of Religion Act**

H.R. 1273 amends the statutes by which civil rights actions are brought, to provide that in cases brought against state and local officials arising out of the public expression of religion, that no monetary damages, costs, or attorney's fees should be awarded.

The purpose of H.R. 1273 is to free state and local officials from the fear of lawsuits arising from the public expression of religion by state and local officials

Rep. Hostettler introduced this bill (H.R. 2057) in the 106<sup>th</sup> Congress, which was referred to the House Judiciary Committee but never considered.

*Sponsor: Rep. John Hostettler (R-IN)*

- **H.J.Res. 12, The School Prayer Amendment**

H.J.Res.12 states "Neither the United States nor any State shall establish any official religion, but the people's right to pray and to recognize their religious beliefs, heritage, and traditions on public property, including schools, shall not be infringed."

This bill is similar to the Religious Freedom Amendment (H.J.Res.66) that Rep. Istook introduced in the 106<sup>th</sup> Congress, which was not considered.

*Sponsor: Rep. Ernest Istook (R-OK)*

- **H.J.Res.54, The Students' Rights Resolution of 2001**

H.J.Res.54 affirms the authority of public schools to: allow students to have a moment of silent prayer, meditation or reflection, encourage the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, and to provide equal access to religious groups

H.J.Res.54 was referred to the House Judiciary and Education and Workforce Committees, but was not considered.

*Sponsor: Rep. Lamar Smith*

## **Gambling**

- **H.R. 1110, The Student Athlete Protection Act**

H.R. 1110 would ban gambling on amateur athletic events, including high school and college sports. This legislation was prompted by a hearing in June 2000, in which high school and college sports coaches testified before the House Judiciary Committee about the impact of gambling on the integrity of high school and college athletics.

H.R. 1110 was referred to the House Judiciary Committee but not considered.

*Sponsor: Rep. Lindsey Graham (R-SC)*

## International Issues/United Nations

### Wins

- **Bush Mexico City Policy Prevails**

See pro-life section.

- **U.S. Delegation successfully postpones U.N. World Summit on Children over inclusion of abortion services as a basic health care right for adolescents.**

In a welcome departure from the policies of the previous administration, the Bush Administration challenged the definition of "reproductive health services" included in a preparatory document for the Summit. A Canadian official in attendance clarified that "reproductive health services" did include abortion. When talks over the definition of "reproductive health services" broke down, the Summit was indefinitely postponed.

- **\$30 million earmark for sex-trafficking prevention in H.R. 2506, the FY 2002 Foreign Operations and Related Agencies Appropriations Act. (C. Smith)**
- **Pro-family advocates are successful at keeping homosexual rights and pro-promiscuity language out of UN Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS.**

### Losses

- **The UN Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW) named Dr. Carolyn Hannan, a Swedish "gender mainstreaming" expert, as its new director.**
- **The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is linked to a South African organization that encourages children to engage in sexual and homosexual behavior and to have abortions, without their parents' knowledge or consent.** This latest news confirms pro-family/pro-life concerns about the purpose of UNICEF and U.S. involvement in this increasingly liberal program.

### In Progress

- **H.R. 2052, The Sudan Peace Act**

The Sudan Peace Act is designed to facilitate famine relief and a peaceful resolution to the civil war in Sudan. VAT Members were particularly concerned about Sudan's persecution of Christians and Sudan's history of terrorist activities, including providing shelter for Osama Bin Laden.

H.R. 2052 passed the House on June 13, 2001 by a vote of 422-2. Rep. Spencer Bacchus offered an amendment that prohibits foreign companies from being listed on U.S. stock exchanges if they engage in oil development

in Sudan. The Bacchus amendment passed the House by voice vote on June 13.

The Senate passed the Sudan Peace Act on July 19, 2001, but the Sudan Peace Act has not yet gone to conference.

*Sponsor: Rep. Tom Tancredo (R-CO)*

- **VAT Members fight increase in funding for UNFPA.**

See appropriations section.

- **EU calls for UN to ban cloning worldwide. But UN General Assembly works toward a ban that would allow humans to be cloned for the purpose of killing them for research.**

## Supreme Court Decisions

- **Simmons-Harris v. Zelman** — Can school vouchers be used for religious schools without constituting the government sponsorship of religion? The case is based on the Ohio State school voucher system, a model for voucher systems nation-wide. The Supreme Court has not yet made a decision in this case.
- **Good News Club v. Milford Central School** — Can students hold Bible club meetings on school property after school hours? On June 11, 2001, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of the Good News Club by a margin of 6-3.
- **Adler v. Duval County School Board** — Do students have the right to lead prayer at graduation ceremonies? The Supreme Court declined to hear this case in 2001 letting a Florida lower court-ruling stand, which permits student led prayer.
- **American Library Association and American Civil Liberties Union file suit against the Justice Department over the Children's Internet Protection Act.**

The Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) requires schools and libraries to implement filtering or blocking technology for computers with Internet access as a condition of universal service discounts (e-rate) under the Communications Act of 1934.

In the 106<sup>th</sup> Congress, Rep. Chip Pickering worked with Reps. Ernest Istook and Bob Franks to include a version of this bill in the LHHS bill that was **signed into law**. CIPA went into effect on April 20, 2001.

On March 20, 2001, the American Library Association and American Civil Liberties Union sued the federal government over CIPA claiming that no filtering software successfully differentiates constitutionally protected speech from illegal speech on the Internet. Thus, CIPA violates the First Amendment.

VAT groups like Family Research Council and Concerned Women for America have publicly challenged the ACLU/ALA suit. The Supreme Court

heard the case in November 2001, but a decision is not expected before Spring 2002.

## **Administrative Decisions**

- **Assisted Suicide**

In November 2001, Attorney General John Ashcroft told DEA chief Asa Hutchinson to take action against doctors who use federally controlled drugs to kill their patients in so-called assisted suicide cases. Ashcroft's letter reverses Janet Reno's 1998 order that federal agents not enforce the law in Oregon, where doctors began using federally controlled drugs to help kill their patients. Since 1997, Oregon doctors have killed at least 70 patients with these drugs. The state of Oregon sued the federal government and a U.S. federal judge has enjoined the Ashcroft order pending the outcome of the case.

- **Stem Cell Research**

On August 9, President Bush decided to initiate federally funded embryonic stem cell research on 60 existing stem cell lines, but declined to support funding the destruction of human embryos for research purposes. VAT Members had varying reactions to the President's stem cell decision. However, VAT Members agreed that adult stem cell research and embryo adoption should be the hallmark of our national plan regarding stem cell research, and that embryonic stem cell research is inherently morally questionable and less scientifically viable than its alternatives.

## **In Progress**

- **Health and Human Service Secretary Tommy Thompson to include unborn children in those eligible for the State Children's Health Insurance Program (S-CHIP) for the first time.**

This new classification gives low-income women access to prenatal care and childbirth coverage. The implementation of this new designation is in process pending the final writing of the regulations.

## **Continued Defensive Action**

- ENDA/Hate Crimes language in any bill
- Eliminating hiring protections for faith-based groups
- Funding for domestic partnerships
- National contraceptive mandate
- Speech restrictions in campaign finance
- Public funding for needle exchange
- Eliminating abstinence-only programs in welfare reform
- Increasing Title X funding
- Increasing UNFPA funding
- Liberalization of Bush stem cell research policy
- National ID Card

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## **Conclusion**

VAT will be seeking new Members from both the incoming class of Republicans and conservatives who have not participated thus far. We are hopeful that more can be accomplished in the Second Session of 107<sup>th</sup> Congress.